

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 3, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

In general, the superabsorbent material can be applied in either a "dry state" or "pre-swollen state". A dry state superabsorbent material may become swollen upon being mixed with a liquid suspension of fibrous material. This swelling of the superabsorbent material can have a variety of beneficial ~~affects~~ effects on web formation. For example, cellulosic fibers typically dry faster than swollen superabsorbent materials. Thus, during the web-drying step, the swollen, partially wet superabsorbent material can allow the structure of the fibrous web to remain open, thereby resulting in a tissue product having higher bulk, permeability, and void volume. Dry superabsorbent materials may be particularly useful when applied at certain steps, such as at the pulper or machine chest.

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 4, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

Besides the materials mentioned above, other various additives or materials can also be used in forming a tissue product of the present invention. For example, various softening agents, wet-strength agents, binders, etc., can be applied. In fact, by utilizing a superabsorbent material in conjunction with a wet-strength agent, it has been discovered that the strength of the tissue product can be further increased. In particular, a swollen superabsorbent material can reduce the number of fiber-crossover points as indicated above. As a result of the reduced number of cross-over points, the wet-strength agent can have a greater ~~affect~~ effect on a smaller number of points, thereby resulting in a paper web that is strong, yet soft.

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 11, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

As stated, the superabsorbent material can also be applied in a dry state. Applying the superabsorbent material in a dry state can be particularly useful at certain steps of the papermaking process. For instance, in some embodiments, a dry state superabsorbent material can be combined with the fibrous suspension in the pulper or machine chest to ensure that the dry state superabsorbent material has a sufficient time to swell. A dry state superabsorbent material can, in some circumstances, become swollen upon being mixed with a liquid suspension of fibrous material. This swelling of the superabsorbent material can have a variety of beneficial ~~affects~~ effects on web formation. For example, cellulosic fibers typically dry faster than swollen superabsorbent materials. Thus, during the web-drying step (described below), the swollen, partially wet superabsorbent material can allow the structure of the fibrous web to remain open, thereby resulting in a tissue product having higher bulk, permeability, and void volume.